

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CR, UN

SUBJECT: CHILE IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: POSSIBLE CREDENTIALS
ISSUE

REF: STATE 198367

1. SUMMARY: CONGRESSMAN FRASER AND MISOFFS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE CHILEAN CREDENTIALS CHALLENGES DURING THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH SANTIAGO BENADAVA 11 SEPTEMBER. CONGRESSMAN FRASER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOC TAKING FURTHER ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS, NOTING THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE COULD DEPEND IN GOOD MEASURE ON SUCH DEVELOPMENTS. BENEADAVA EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY (SEPTEMBER 11) IN SANTIAGO ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY REVOLT WOULD ANNOUNCE IMPORTANT LIBERALIZATION MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTING HE IS RETURNING TO SANTIAGO 12 SEPTEMBER, BENADAVA SAID HE HAS BEEN ASKED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO EXPLORE THE QUESTION OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF AND OPTIMUM TACTICS FOR DEALING WITH A CHALLENGE TO CHILEAN CREDENTIALS. (EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH BENADAVA REPORTED USUN 4173.) IN ANALYZING
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THE SITUATION, HE AND MISOFF'S NOTED THAT THE POSSIBLE

COMPOSITION OF THE NINE-MEMBER CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE. WE OBSERVED THAT, IF BOUTEFILKA NOMINATES ON THE BASIS OF REGIONAL GROUP SUGGESTIONS, THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WILL BE COMPOSED OF US, BELGIUM, COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA USSR, CHINA, MONGOLIA (UNLESS JAPAN DECIDES TO OFFER ITS NAME), AND TWO AFRICAN MEMBERS, POSSIBLY LIBYA AND MAURITANIA IF, AS NOW SEEMS LIKELY, SENEGAL AND TANZANIA, THE USUAL AFRICAN MEMBERS IN RECENT YEARS, VOLUNTEER TO STEP DOWN. CONGRESSMAN FRASER SAID THAT THE CHANGE OF THE AFRICAN MEMBERS COULD BE UNHELPFUL; BENADAVA CONCURRED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE CONGRESSMANS' QUESTION, BENADAVA SAID THERE IS NOT QUESTION AS TO LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT; MOST LATINS WERE "FED UP" WITH POLITICIZED CHALLENGES TO CREDENTIALS. IN THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA WOULD OPPOSE A MOTION TO REJECT CHILE'S CREDENTIALS, AS WOULD THE OTHER LATIN STATES IF THE ISSUE WERE RAISED IN PLENARY-CUBA AND MEXICO APART-SINCE ALL OF THE OTHERS HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHILE. HE THOUGHT THAT ONLY IF THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO RECOMMEND REJECTION WOULD THERE BE A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S DOING SO; PLENARY WOULD LIKELY DO WHATEVER THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED. HE WOULD NOT EXPECT CHINA TO VOTE IN THE COMMITTEE FOR A REJECTION MOTION. IN HIS VIEW, THE PROBLEM IN THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE LAY WITH THE USSR, MONGOLIA, AND, POSSIBLY, THE AFRICAN MEMBERS. MISOFF COMMENTED THAT PLENARY TREATMENT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ACTION WOULD DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON THE SUPPORT WHICH A MOTION TO REJECT HAD

OBTAINED IN THE COMMITTEE. IF THE MARGIN HAD BEEN AS CLOSE AS 1 VOTE (5 AGAINST A REJECTION MOTION, 4 IN FAVOR), THE REJECTIONISTS WOULD VERY LIKELY RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN IN PLENARY EVEN IF THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL.

4. WE ALSO EXPLORED THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE VARIOUS OTHER POTENTIAL CREDENTIALS PROBLEMS. BENADAVA SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A CHALLENGE TO ISRAELI CREDENTIALS. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION, WE SAID WE ARE NOT CERTAIN AS TO SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS BUT NEED TO PLAN ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT SOUTH AFRICA MAY VERY WELL SEEK TO RESUME IT PARTICIPATION WHEN THE 30TH SESSION CONVENES ON 16 SEPTEMBER AND THAT THERE MAY BE AN

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IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE TO ITS RIGHT TO DO SO, WHETHER BY A DIRECT REQUEST FROM THE FLOOR FOR A REAFFIRMATION OF THE BOUTEFILKA RULING OR THROUGH A CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER. BENADAVA SAID HE BELIEVES THE GOC INTENDS TO SUBMIT ITS CREDENTIALS EARLY IN THE SESSION, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ASSEMBLY'S RULES OF PROCEDURE WHICH CALL FOR SUBMISSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE APPEARED TO BELIEVE CHILE WOULD BE WRONG TO DEPART FROM ITS USUAL PRACTICE IN THIS RESPECT.

HE COMMENTED THAT CHILE DID NOT WANT TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHALLENGE TO THEIR CREDENTIALS WHICH, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HE DID NOT THINK VERY LIKELY; THEY OBVIOUSLY DID NOT WISH TO EXCITE HOSTILE ACTIVITY.

5. FRASER SUGGESTED THAT OUR UN DELEGATIONS STAY IN TOUCH ON THE QUESTION. HE SAID IT COULD BE ASSERTED THAT THE UN IS ALREADY INVOLVED IN THE CHILEAN SITUATION IN VIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALLANA COMMITTEE. IF ANYTHING COULD BE DONE IN THIS CONNECTION, THE IMPACT ON A CREDENTIALS FIGHT COULD BE MOST HELPFUL. BENADAVA NOTED THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET IS MAKING ND IMPORTANT SPEECH ON THE AFTERNOON OF 11 SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY AND THAT HE EXPECTED IMPORTANT LIBERALIZATION MEASURES TO BE ANNOUNCED. HE NOTED ALSO THAT THE GOC HAS INVITED THE SECRETARY GENERAL OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT CHILE, UNDER SECRETARY MORSE, WHO BENADAVA SERVED AS AIDE-DE-CAMP ON MORSE'S RECENT VISIT TO CHILE, WOULD AGAIN BE WELCOME. IN RESPONSE TO FRASER'S QUESTION ABOUT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GOC AND ALLANA COMMITTEE IN GENEVA, BENADAVA SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY CONTACTS. HE REPEATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH WOULD BE DECISIVE TO THE CHILEAN POSITION AT THE 30TH SESSION.
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